"Dark Days" Described

the truth and scrupulously exact

must be kept from gathering tation of value. None the less, then is to discover how remarkast he unswerving purpose which hed the British army from 1917

information of value. None the less, to read them is to discover how remarkable was the unswerving purpose which fashioned the British army from 1917 enwards into a magnificent instrument of war.

Explanations Lacking

"No instrument, however, can produce of itself; there must always be the hand which knows how to use it. When, therefore, the dispatches are content with telling us that the period of attrition was followed in the natural course of events by the period of decision, that the German armies, exhausted and worn out by the fighting of 1914, 1915, 1916, and 1917, were to be defeated in 1918, they do not say why the former period was so long and the latter so short. Still less do they explain the change in the decisive period when the Allies advanced to victory at the double, only to be stopped by German capitulation at the armistice.

"The results are briefly set forth, their causes are not explained. All mention of the hand which guided the instrument is omitted. We may be allowed to make good this deficiency, in

which the all-important part played by the British higher command is lost to

daig for Part

InWinningWar

The period of attrition coincided, in fact, with a period of weakness for the Allies, which was the result of their incomplete preparation for war. To the battlefields of 1914 the Entente had not brought more than a British army of six divisions and a French army lacking in the artillery and munitions required for modern warfare.

"With these inadequate means we certainly did stem the invasion in the first year, but so long as the shortage in our effectives and material was not made good, we were not in a position to undertake the long sustained offensive which alone could force a decision by arms. We were limited to local and spasmodic engagements, and the best that could be done was to endeavor to coördinate them as to space and time.

Cause of Poor Results

Lack of Men and Munitions
Nearly Left Entente at the
Mercy of German Armies

New York Tribung
Foreign Press Bureau

LONDON, Dec. 20. Marshal Foch has written the following introduction to sir Douglas Haig's Dispatches," according to the "Manchester Guardian." The introduction was written for the French edition of the book, and is reproduced in English with the Marshal's permission and approval. Marshal Foch srites:

Written with the strictest regard for the truth and scrupulously exact

Cause of Poor Results

"That is the explanation of the poor results obtained up to the year 1917. Happily for the Entente the enemy was obliged during these years to cope with the Russian and then with the Rumanian armies in the East. Consequently he had employed on the Western front only a part of his forces, insufficient to gain a definite victory, or had put into operation, as at Verdun, only a narrow and limited conception of the offensive. The resulting weakness of the two opposing lines threatened to prolong for some time to come what has been called the war of attrition—that struggle of unmarked and unsustained advantages, which wears out both armies without bringing gain to either—a war without result. If a war is to end in victory, it must always be given a character different from this.

"In the course of this struggle for a decision (a necessary phase, be it said) Germany freed herself of the Eastern

"In the course of this struggle for a decision (a necessary phase, be it said) Germany freed herself of the Eastern front in 1917 by means of the Russian Revolution and the Treaties of Brest-Litovsk and Bucharest. And when she turned the mass of her formidably equipped armies, more than 200 divisions strong, against the Western front to deliver the violent and, in the first instance, victorious atfacks on the Somme in March, 1918; on the Lys in April, on the Chemin des Dames in May, on the Oise in June, and on the Marne in July, who could perceive the signs of that fatal attrition, or the dawn of victory for the Entente?

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